

BOOK REVIEW

BURGHARDT, GLENN, and LAURA BURGHARDT. 1969. *A Collector's Guide to West Coast Chitons*. Special Publication No. 4, San Francisco Aquarium Society, 45 pp., 7 figures, 4 colored plates. \$4.95.

The authors of this publication correctly state in the introduction that there is a need for a popular work on chitons, and they have attempted to provide such a work. This class of Mollusca has been ignored by most systematists, and the scientific literature is scattered and incomplete. After brief remarks on the morphology and biology of chitons, and the preparation of specimens for the collection, the authors present a rather complete list of West Coast chitons, including known synonyms. A glossary follows the listing.

On the first page, the authors state that their publication is far from perfect, and this reviewer agrees. Rather than using a systematic classification, the genera are arranged alphabetically. Thus, *Ischnochiton* (p. 15) and *Stenoplax* (p. 35), both members of the Ischnochitonidae, are widely separated in the text. The front cover of this spiral bound pamphlet, a large, beautiful, colored photograph of *Mopalia lowei* Pilsbry, is the high point of the paper. The most serious problem concerning the use of this guide is the fact that the illustrations, though in color, are so poorly reproduced that they are virtually useless. Without good illustrations, the paper becomes little more than a listing of West Coast chitons. This list, however, should help the amateur to appreciate the diversity of the Polyplacophora in this region, and perhaps aid in the arrangement of his collection.

— ROBERT C. BULLOCK